

Under the aforesaid new paragraph for FIGURE 4, add the following new paragraphs:

--FIGURE 4A is a Front View of the Footplate and Latch Rods.--

--FIGURE 4B is a Side View of the Footplate and Latch Rods.--

--FIGURE 5 is a Side View of the Dropside Assembly.--

Because the aforesaid three paragraphs are new paragraphs, Applicants will not submit a marked-up version, which would otherwise consist of the new paragraph with underlining. See MPEP 714 II.B.

In the Specification at page 4 and continuing to page 5, delete the Section identified as "Reference Numerals in Drawings" and replace with the following:

--Reference Numerals in Drawings

- 10 Front Corner Leg (First)
- 11 Front Corner Leg (Second)
- 12 Front Corner Leg Slot (First)
- 13 Front Corner Leg Slot (Second)
- 14 Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel (First)
- 15 Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel (Second)
- 16 Latch Rod Catch Recess (First)
- 17 Latch Rod Catch Recess (Second)
- 18 Vertical Slide Rod (First)
- 19 Vertical Slide Rod (Second)
- 20 Vertical Slide Rod Threads
- 22 Side Rail (First)
- 23 Side Rail (Second)
- 24 Side Rail Slide Rod Channel (First)
- 25 Side Rail Slide Rod Channel (Second)
- 26 Side Rail Slat (First)

- 27 Side Rail Slat (Second)
- 28 Latch Rod Support Recess (First)
- 29 Latch Rod Support Recess (Second)
- 30 Latch Rod Channel (First)
- 31 Latch Rod Channel (Second)
- 32 Latch Rod (First)
- 33 Latch Rod (Second)
- 34 Vertical Slat
- 36 Top Horizontal Bar
- 38 Bottom Horizontal Bar
- 40 Dropside
- 42 Footplate--

The marked-up version regarding this amendment by replacement section is as follows:

-Reference Numerals in Drawings

- 10 Front Corner Leg (First)
- 11 Front Corner Leg (Second)
- 12 Front Corner Leg Slot (First)
- 13 Front Corner Leg Slot (Second)
- 14 Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel (First)
- 15 Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel (Second)
- 16 Latch Rod Catch Recess (First)
- 17 Latch Rod Catch Recess (Second)
- 18 Vertical Slide Rod (First)
- 19 Vertical Slide Rod (Second)
- 20 Vertical Slide Rod Threads
- 22 Side Rail (First)

- 23 Side Rail (Second)
- 24 Side Rail Slide Rod Channel (First)
- 25 Side Rail Slide Rod Channel (Second)
- 26 Side Rail Slat (First)
- 27 Side Rail Slat (Second)
- 28 Latch Rod Support Recess (First)
- 29 Latch Rod Support Recess (Second)
- 30 Latch Rod Channel (First)
- 31 Latch Rod Channel (Second)
- 32 Latch Rod (First)
- 33 Latch Rod (Second)
- 34 Vertical Slat
- 36 Top Horizontal Bar
- 38 Bottom Horizontal Bar
- 40 Dropside
- 42 Footplate

In the Specification at page 5, delete the Section identified as “DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION” and replace with the following new section:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

As stated above, FIGURE 1 shows a Front View of the Front Corner Leg 10. Front Corner Leg Slot 12 is a slotted region which accepts Side Rail 22, which is shown in FIGURE 4. Side Rail 22 rides along Vertical Slide Rod 18. Vertical Slide Rod 18 fits within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14, which is shown in both FIGURES 1 and 2. Vertical Slide Rod 18, shown in FIGURE 3, is secured within Front Corner Leg 10 via a wheel stud interference fit. Said wheel stud is attached to said Vertical Slide Rod 18 by Vertical Slide Rod Threads 20. When a wheel is attached to said wheel stud and the entire crib is assembled, Vertical Slide Rod

18 remains fixed within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14. When completely assembled, Side Rail 22 rests within Front Corner Leg Slot 12, and Vertical Slide Rod 18 rests within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14 and Side Rail Slide Rod Channel 24, which are aligned along Vertical Slide Rod 18.

Latch Rod Catch Recess 16, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, accepts Latch Rod 32 when the Dropside 40 is in its locked upright position. More specifically, Latch Rod 32, which rests within Latch Rod Channel 30, passes through Latch Rod Support Recess 28 and into Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 when Dropside 40 is in its locked upright position. In the preferred embodiment, a threaded insert is placed within Latch Rod Catch Recess 16, and a bushing is placed within Latch Rod Support Recess 28.

Preferably, Latch Rod 32 is spring biased with Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 configured so that simultaneous turning of Latch Rod 32, via pressure on Footplate 42, and a slight lifting of Dropside 40 is required to release Latch Rod 32 from Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 and permit lowering of Dropside 40 as Side Rail 22 moves vertically along Vertical Slide Rod 18. Stated another way, while the user exerts slight lifting pressure on Dropside 40, the user will simultaneously press Footplate 42 so that Latch Rod 32 is actuated and released from Latch Rod Catch Recess 16. Thereby, Dropside 40 lowers.

In the locked upright position, the top of Side Rail 22 is positioned near the top of Front Corner Leg Slot 12. These features need not touch, but can be made to do so if desired. Side Rail Slat 26, which is attached to Side Rail 22, blocks access to Front Corner Leg Slot 12, preventing a child's fingers from entering Front Corner Leg Slot 12. See FIGURE 5.

When Dropside 40 is in its fully lowered position, the bottom of Side Rail 22 rests along the bottom of Front Corner Leg Slot 12. Once again, Side Rail Slat 26 blocks access to Front Corner Leg Slot 12, preventing a child's fingers from entering Front Corner Leg Slot 12.

As shown in FIGURE 4, and as is common in cribs in the prior art, Slats 34 run at intervals between the Top Horizontal Bar 36 and Bottom Horizontal Bar 38. Moreover, FIGURE 4 shows the preferred location of Footplate 42 along Bottom Horizontal Bar 38.

The description of features and the illustrations shown in FIGURES 1 through 3 have been directed to the left side of the crib dropside assembly. Corresponding features are provided

at the right side of the crib dropside assembly. As such, the features have been labeled with First and Second as put forth in the Reference Numerals and Drawings section, *supra*.

As shown in FIGURE 4, Dropside 40 comprises Top Horizontal Bar 36 and Bottom Horizontal Bar 38, multiple Slats 34 attached to said bars and spaced at intervals, Side Rail Slats 26 and 27, Side Rails 22 and 23, Side Rail Slide Rod Channels 24 and 25, and a latching means mounted to or preferably within Bottom Horizontal Bar 38. Said latching means preferably comprises Latch Rod Channels 30 and 31, Latch Rods 32 and 33, Latch Rod Support Recesses 28 and 29, Latch Rod Catch Recesses 16 and 17, and Footplate 42, which is connected to Latch Rods 32 and 33. Footplate 42 and Latch Rods 32 and 33 are connected as shown in FIGURE 4A and 4B. It is understood that the intervals between the slats should not exceed the maximum safe distance needed to prevent injury to a child.

The vertical movement of the Dropside 40 is constrained by the relative sizes of Side Rails 22 and 23 and Front Corner Leg Slots 12 and 13. As such, altering the relative sizes of the vertical faces of Side Rails 22 and 23 and Front Corner Leg Slots 12 and 13 changes the length or range of the dropside vertical movement. This may be better understood upon viewing the dropside assembly in FIGURE 5.

In the preferred embodiment, spacers are placed on the ends of the Top Horizontal Bar 36 and Bottom Horizontal Bar 38 to aid smooth vertical movement of the Dropside 40. Preferably, said spacers are made of nylon.--

The marked-up version regarding this amendment by replacement section is as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

As stated above, FIGURE 1 shows a Front View of the Front Corner Leg 10. Front Corner Leg Slot 12 is a slotted region which accepts Side Rail 22, which is shown in FIGURE 4. Side Rail 22 rides along Vertical Slide Rod 18. Vertical Slide Rod 18 fits within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14, which is shown in both FIGURES 1 and 2. Vertical Slide Rod 18, shown in FIGURE 3, is secured within Front Corner Leg 10 via a wheel stud interference fit.

Said wheel stud is attached to said Vertical Slide Rod 18 by Vertical Slide Rod Threads 20.

When a wheel is attached to said wheel stud and the entire crib is assembled, Vertical Slide Rod 18 remains fixed within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14. When completely assembled, Side Rail 22 rests within Front Corner Leg Slot 12, and Vertical Slide Rod 18 rests within Front Corner Leg Slide Rod Channel 14 and Side Rail Slide Rod Channel 24, which are aligned along Vertical Slide Rod 18.

Latch Rod Catch Recess 16, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, accepts Latch Rod 32 when the Dropside 40 [side of the crib] is in its locked upright position. More specifically, Latch Rod 32, which rests within Latch Rod Channel 30, passes through Latch Rod Support Recess 28 and into Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 when [the] Dropside 40 [side of the crib] is in its locked upright position. In the preferred embodiment, a threaded insert is placed within Latch Rod Catch Recess 16, and a bushing is placed within Latch Rod Support Recess 28.

[The latch mechanisms which can be employed are in common in the prior art.]

Preferably, [The] Latch Rod 32 [latching bar] is [can be] spring biased with [the] Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 [catch elements] configured so that simultaneous turning of [the] Latch Rod 32, via pressure on Footplate 42, [bar] and a slight lifting of [the] Dropside [side] 40 is required to release [the latch] Latch Rod 32 from Latch Rod Catch Recess 16 and permit lowering of [the] Dropside [side] 40 as Side Rail 22 moves vertically along Vertical Slide Rod 18. Stated another way, while the user exerts slight lifting pressure on Dropside 40, the user will simultaneously press Footplate 42 so that Latch Rod 32 is actuated and released from Latch Rod Catch Recess 16. [Preferably, the latching bar and catch elements can be actuated via a pressure plate connected to the latch elements by rods, such that the double action of pushing the plate in one direction and then a second direction will release the catch elements, and] Thereby, [thereby the dropside] Dropside 40 lowers. [, without the need for the slight lifting aforesaid.]

In the locked upright position, the top of Side Rail 22 is positioned near the top of Front Corner Leg Slot 12. These features need not touch, but can be made to do so if desired. Side Rail Slat 26, which is attached to Side Rail 22, blocks access to Front Corner Leg Slot 12, preventing a child's fingers from entering Front Corner Leg Slot 12. See FIGURE 5.

When Dropside 40 [dropside] is in its fully lowered position, the bottom of Side Rail 22

rests along the bottom of Front Corner Leg Slot 12. Once again, Side Rail Slat 26 blocks access to Front Corner Leg Slot 12, preventing a child's fingers from entering Front Corner Leg Slot 12.

As shown in FIGURE 4, and as is common in cribs in the prior art, Slats 34 run at intervals between the Top Horizontal Bar 36 and Bottom Horizontal Bar 38. [In the preferred embodiment, the crib is symmetric such that the features discussed are repeated on both ends (right and left) of the dropside. Preferably, one long side of the crib is used as a dropside.] Moreover, FIGURE 4 shows the preferred location of Footplate 42 along Bottom Horizontal Bar 38.

The description of features and the illustrations shown in FIGURES 1 through 3 have been directed to the left side of the crib dropside assembly. Corresponding features are provided at the right side of the crib dropside assembly. As such, the features have been labeled as First and Second as put forth in the Reference Numerals and Drawings section, *supra*.

As shown in FIGURE 4, [The dropside assembly thereby] Dropside 40 comprises [the] Top Horizontal Bar 36 and [the] Bottom Horizontal Bar 38, multiple Slats 34 attached to said bars and spaced at intervals, [a left side rail] Side Rail Slats 26 [slat], [a left side] Side Rails 22 [rail attached to said left side rail slat], Side Rail Slide Rod Channels 24, [a right side rail slat, a right side rail attached to said right side rail slat], and a latching means mounted to or preferably within Bottom Horizontal Bar 38. [The intervals between the slats should not exceed the maximum safe distance needed to prevent injury to a child.] Said latching means preferably comprises Latch Rod Channels 30, [a latching bar and catch elements] Latch Rods 32 and 33, Latch Rod Support Recesses 28 and 29, Latch Rod Catch recesses 16 and 17, and Footplate 42, which is connected to Latch Rods 32 and 33. [that can be actuated via a pressure plate connected to the catch elements by Latch Rod 18, such that the double action of pushing the plate in one direction and then a second direction will release the Latch Rod 18 from the right and left latch rod recesses, which are the catch elements.] Footplate 42 and Latch Rods 32 and 33 are connected as shown in FIGURES 4A and 4B. It is understood that the intervals between the slats should not exceed the maximum safe distance needed to prevent injury to a child.

The vertical movement of the [dropside] Dropside 40 [assembly vertical] is constrained by the relative sizes of Side [Rail] Rails 22 and 23 and Front Corner Leg [Slot] Slots 12 and 13.

As such, altering the relative sizes of the vertical faces of Side [Rail] Rails 22 and 23 and Front Corner Leg [Slot] Slots 12 and 13 changes the length or range of the dropside vertical movement. This may be better understood upon viewing the dropside assembly in FIGURE 5.

In the preferred embodiment, spacers are placed on the ends of the Top Horizontal Bar 36 and Bottom Horizontal Bar 38 to aid smooth vertical movement of the [dropside] Dropside 40. Preferably, said spacers are made of nylon.